

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097974

USOECDD, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UR, US

SUBJECT: CYRIL BATH CASE

REF: A) PARIS 10111, B) STATE 051787

1. USDEL SHOULD RESPOND TO THE FRENCH STATEMENT IN
PARA 3 OF REF A NOTING THAT THE FRENCH ASSESSMENT OF THE
CYRIL BATH (CB) PRESS IS TECHNICALLY CORRECT IN THAT THE
THREE FEATURES CITED BY THE FRENCH DO MAKE THE CB PRESS
SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING USE AND,
ACCORDINGLY, IS COVERED BY 1081(A). IT IS FOR THAT REASON
THAT THE US AUTHORITIES BROUGHT THIS CASE AND ITS
ATTENDING CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION. USDEL
SHOULD THEN ASK THE FRENCH HOW THEIR TECHNICIANS ARRIVED
AT THE CONCLUSION THAT THE THREE CITED FEATURES ARE "SPECIAL-
LY DESIGNED" FOR FORMING HONEYCOMB PANELS SINCE THAT EVALU-
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ATION PUZZLES BOTH THE US DESIGNER-MANUFACTURER AND US
TECHNICAL EXPERTS. US EXPERTS AGREE THAT, AS A GENERAL
MECHANICAL PRINCIPLE, ANY STRETCH FORMING PRESS CAN SHAPE
HONEYCOMB MATERIAL. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THE PRE-
FERRED METHOD WOULD BE TO USE A MACHINE WHOSE JAW OR GRIP
OPENINGS AND INTERNAL JAW ELEMENTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY WIDE
TO ALLOW FOR HANDLING A THICK AND FAIRLY WIDE MATERIAL.
THE US PRESS IS CUSTOM DESIGNED TO FORM PARTS OUT OF
ALUMINUM, STEEL, AND TITANIUM ALLOY SHEETS AND, CONSEQUENTLY,
HAS A JAW OPENING OF 15 MM (.59 INCHES) WITH NARROW

SPACING BETWEEN THE INTRNAL JAW ELEMENTS SO THAT AN EVEN STRESS PATTERN IS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE ENTIRE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF THE SHEET. IN THEIR VIEW, US EXPERTS CONSIDER IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE US PRESS WOULD BE USED IN HONEY-COMB WORK UNLESS THE JAWS WERE REPLACED WITH THOSE MORE SUITED FOR THAT USE.

2. USDEL SHOULD THEN ASK THE FRENCH IF THEY COULD CONFIRM THE IMPRESSION GAINED BY US AUTHORITIES THAT THE PRESSES INVOLVED IN THE FRENCH TRANSACTION ARE BRIDGE TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC PRESSES WHICH WOULD BE UNEMBARGOED UNDER 1072. AFTER ALLOWING ADEQUATE TIME FOR A FRENCH RESPONSE AT APRIL 18 MEETING USDEL SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE US APPLICANT BID ON FOUR JOB ASSIGNMENTS OFFERED BY AVTOPROMIMPORT -- JOB NUMBERS N4011, N4012, N4013, AND N4014. THE FIRST THREE CONCERNED A STRETCH FORMING MACHINE WITH A BRIDGE TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC PRESS TRANSVERSELY MOUNTED OVER IT, THUS FORMING A ONE-TO-ONE INTEGRATED STRETCH-FORMING/HYDRAULIC PRESS SYSTEM. THE FOURTH JOB ASSIGNMENT -- N4014 -- COVERED ONE UNINTEGRATED VERTICAL DOUBLE WING STRETCH MACHINE AND WAS AWARDED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO THE US APPLICANT. THAT MACHINE IS THE SUBJECT OF COCOM DOC (78) 108, WHOSE BLUEPRINT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE US AUTHORITIES, AVTOPROM-IMPORT GAVE THE CONTRACTS FOR THREE EACH OF THE INTEGRATED PRESS SYSTEMS COVERED BY JOB ASSIGNMENTS N4011, N4012, AND N4013 -- THAT IS, A TOTAL OF 18 PRESSES FORMING THREE EACH OF THE INTEGRATED BRIDGE TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC/STRETCH-FORMING SYSTEMS/OR NINE STRETCH FORMING COMBINATIONS -- TO A FRENCH FIRM, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS HAD SEVERAL PRESSES MANUFACTURED BY IT AND, THEREFORE, WERE FAMILIAR WITH THAT FIRM'S PRODUCT. THE US COMPANY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY BUT, NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO PURCHASE THE SINGLE STRETCH MACHINE FOR EVALUATION PURPOSES.

"THE SPECIFICATIONS PROVIDED THE US APPLICANT BY AVTOPROM-IMPORT CONTAINED LINE DRAWINGS OF THE SIX PARTS TO BE PRODUCED. THESE PARTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY US EXPERTS AS BEING LARGE AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS. THE SIZE OF THE RAW MATERIAL STOCK FOR THOSE PARTS WOULD REQUIRE HYDRAULIC PRESSES AND DIES OF SUCH A SIZE AS TO BE UNECONOMICAL AND UNWIELDY FOR USE. THE INTEGRATED BRIDGE TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC PRESS STRETCH

FORMING MACHINE SYSTEM, HOWEVER, WOULD PERMIT THE USE OF THE BRIDGE-TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC PRESS FOR DIMPLING,

ZMBOSSING OR OTHER STAMPING OPERATION WHILE THE WORK
PIECE WAS STILL, REPEAT STILL IN THE STRETCH MACHINE.
THE STRETCH FORMING OPERATION WOULD ALSO IMPROVE THE
STRENGTH OF THE DESIGNED COMPONENT BY COLD WORKING THE
WORK-PIECE EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE MASS OF THE PART. THIS
BENEFIT CANNOT OCCUR WHEN USING A CONVENTIONAL HYDRAULIC
PRESS, SINCE IN THE SITUATION COLD WORKING OCCURS ONLY
IN LOCALIZED AREAS OF THE PART BEING FORMED.

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"THE US AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE THROUGH A STUDY OF THE FRENCH
FIRM'S CATALOGUE THAT ONE MODEL OF ITS STRETCH MACHINES
CONTAINS A 300 METRIC TON DIE TABLE THAT CAN EXERT A FORCE
ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE STRETCHED SHEET; INDEED, SUCH A
MACHINE MANUFACTURED BY THE FRENCH FIRM IS NOW BEING USED
BY AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT COMPANY. ONE OF THE SIX AIRCRAFT
PARTS TO BE FASHIONED ACCORDING TO SOVIET SPECIFICATIONS
CONTAINS A BUBBLE WHICH COULD BE FORMED BY SUCH A DIE
TABLE.

"ON BALANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT
INDICATORS TO SUGGEST THAT THE FRENCH PRESSES ARE LIKELY
TO BE USED IN THE FABRICATION OF LARGE-SIZE AIRCRAFT PARTS
AND THAT THAT THIS USE WILL BE INTEGRATED WITH STRETCH-
FORMING MACHINES. THE US AUTHORITIES WOULD BE GRATEFUL
IF THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES COULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION
SURROUNDING THEIR TRANSACTION."

3. IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE,
USDEL MAY DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THE CB NOVEMBER 2, 1976
LETTER TO THE KAMA PURCHASING COMMISSION WITH CB'S NAME
AND OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES DELETED. THIS LETTER WAS
FORWARDED IN CONNECTION WITH REF B. USDEL MAY ALSO DIS-
TRIBUTE ONLY THE DRAWINGS ATTACHED TO THE AVTOPROMIMPORT
JOB ASSIGNMENTS FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF AN OCTOBER 28,
1977 TRANSMITTAL SLIP. USDEL SHOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY
FROM THE ACB-LOIRE CATALOGUE PICTURES ALSO FORWARDED ON
OCTOBER 28 THE BRIDGE TYPE VERTICAL HYDRAULIC PRESS (SEE
P.22 TOP) WE HAVE IN MIND -- IT WILL LOOK LIKE A LARGE
INVERTED "U" WITH AN ELONGATED BASE. THE JAW ARRANGEMENT
CITED IN PARA 1 ABOVE CAN BE LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEFT
HAND QUADRANT OF CB BLUEPRINT APRO-1564, FORWARDED TN
CONNECTION WITH (78) 108 -- IT IS LABELLED JAW ASSEMBLY
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WITH AN ARROW POINTING TO A REPRESENTATION OF THE INTER-
NAL JAW ELEMENTS.

4. FYI: WE DO NOT EXPECT THE FRENCH TO ADMIT TO ANYTHING

BEYOND WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SAID, EITHER IN COMMITTEE OR BILATERALLY. WE WANT TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE, HOWEVER, FOR WE BELIEVE THEIR TERGIVERSATIONS IN THE COMMITTEE IN FACE OF TECHNICAL FACTS WILL BENEFIT OUR CASE. WITH THE INFORMATION WE HAVE NOW PUT TOGETHER, WE BELIEVE THERE IS LIKELIHOOD IN THE FRENCH EITHER (I) SHIPPING THE HYDRAULIC PRESSES FOR INTEGRATION IN THE USSR WITH STRETCH MACHINES PREVIOUSLY EXPORTED BY THE FRENCH, (II) EXPORTING BOTH STRETCH MACHINES AND HYDRAULIC PRESSES BUT RESTRICTING THEIR COMMENTS ONLY TO THE UNEMBARGOED HYDRAULIC PRESSES -- ERGO THEIR REPEATED REFERENCES TO 1072(B) AND COLD FORMING OR (III) A VARIATION ON THESE THEMES. THE SURFACING OF THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THOSE PRESSES, OF COURSE, WOULD WELL DISPELL OUR SUSPICIONS.

5. THE USDEL SHOULD REQUEST THAT THIS CASE BE SCHEDULED AGAIN FOR DISCUSSION ON A WEEKLY BASIS, I.E., APRIL 25, RATHER THAN THE USUAL TWO-WEEK DEFERRAL. CHRISTOPHER

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